

REMARKS

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant's undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on May 2, 2001, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants' undersigned attorney will happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

Office Action Response

The Office Action mailed June 20, 2001, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 10 are currently pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,184,568

Claims 1 through 10 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,184,568. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Enclosed is the terminal disclaimer and required fee.

Drawings

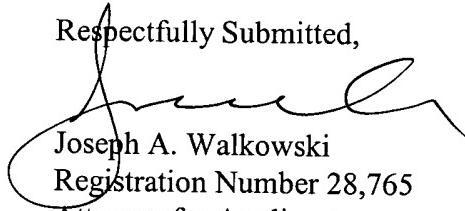
Applicants file herewith under cover of a separate Letter to the Draftsperson proposed corrections to Fig. 2 of the drawings, specifically the designation "(PRIOR ART)" marked in red. Applicants respectfully assert that Fig. 3 is not prior art but, to the contrary, schematically illustrates the use of an on-chip decoupling capacitor in accordance with the present invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Fig. 3 is respectfully requested. Applicants will file corrected formal drawings upon approval of the proposed amendment to Fig. 2 and receipt of a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due in the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



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JAW/hlg:dlm

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